

## Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /091 W

----- 070060

R 051411Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7622

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR XF

SUBJ: SOVIET CALL FOR RENEWED MEPC

1 SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KOLESNIKOV COLLARED SEVERAL  
EMBOFFS (IMPORTUNING AMBASSADOR AS WELL) DURING RECEPTION  
OCT. 4 IN EFFORT TO GAUGE AMERICAN REACTION TO NEW SOVIET CALL  
FOR RECONVENTION OF GENEVA MEPC IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.  
KOLESNIKOV STATED THAT SOVIET CHARGE AKOPOV HAD MET WITH  
DEPPRIMIN /FONMIN FAHMY THAT DAY TO EXPLAIN SOVIET INITIATIVE  
TO GOE BUT HAD COME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIANS NOT  
PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC CONCERNING SOVIET PROPOSAL. KOLESNIKOV  
GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT EGYPTIANS MIGHT BE PREOCCUPIED AT  
MOMENT OVER LEBANON AND UPCOMING OCTOBER 18 ARAB SUMMIT, BUT  
HE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESS AS MANY US DIPLOMATS  
AS POSSIBLE FOR THEIR REACTION TO SOVIET INITIATIVE ON  
GENEVA. GENERAL RESPONSE OF EMBOFFS WAS TO STRESS  
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DIFFICULTIES IN CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHIN TIME

FRAME WHICH SOVIETS APPEARED TO HAVE IN MIND.

2. KOLESNIKOV STRESSED SEVERAL TIME THAT FAHMY AND AKOPOV HAD NOT DISCUSSED LEBANESE SITUATION DURING THEIR OCT 4 MEETING BUT RATHER HAD DEALT ONLY WITH SOVIET INITIATIVE. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS SOVIET INITIATIVE VERY LACONICALLY. OCT. 4 DAILIES NOTE IN FRONT-PAGE SQUIBS THAT AKOPOV DID CALL ON FAHMY AND INDEED REPORT THAT INITIATIVE DISCUSSED. GUMHURIYYA REVEALS FOR FIRST TIME OCT 4 THAT AKOPOV IN FACT DELIVERED TEXT OF SOVIET PROPOSALS ON GENEVA TO MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD ON OCT 1. GUMHURIYYA ARTICLE ALSO NOTES WITHOUT UNDUE ENTHUSIASM THAT SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN AMMAN AND DAMASCUS DELIVERED TEXTS OF PROPOSALS TO JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN FONMINS AND EVEN CLAIMS (INCREDIBLY) THAT "SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL" ALSO DELIVERED TEXT OF PROPOSALS.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE APPARENT SOVIET CONCERN TO DEAL THEMSELVES BACK INTO ME NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND TOO GIVE APPEARANCE OF DIPLOMATIC MOTION, IT DIFFICULT FROM CAIRO VANTAGE POINT TO PREDICT ANY DEGREE OF SUCCESS FOR THIS LATEST SOVIET INITIATIVE. ALL PARTIES TO LEBANESE DISPUTE, INCLUDING GOE, CURRENTLY MANEUVERING TO ARRANGE FOR OR PREVENT SUMMIT AND NOT FOCUSING ON BROACK ME QUESTIONS. WITH ISRAELIS AWAITING OUTCOME OF US ELECTIONS AND SYRIANS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LEBANON, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT SOVIET PROPOSALS TO BE MET WITH DEAFENING SILENCE. IN FACT, DESPITE PRESENCE OF MANY CABINET-LEVEL GOE OFFICIALS AT OCT 4 RECEPTION, KOLESNOKOV ONLY TO RAISE SOVIET INITIATIVE. EILTS

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